

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner has not initialed a copy of the PTO-1449 form references that were mailed to the USPTO on April 8, 2005. The Examiner also did not indicate the references on the PTO-1449 form(s) were not in conformance with MPEP § 609. As such, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these references have been considered and made of record. This applies only to the second page of references; the first page was initialed previously.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, and 15-25 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 10 are currently amended. Claims 5, 8, and 9 are currently canceled. Claim 14 has been previously canceled. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 11-17 are allowed.

Claims 5-6, 9-10, 19, and 21 stand objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 18, 20, 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,738,839 to Sinha (hereinafter "Sinha") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,973,520 to Drerup et al. (hereinafter "Drerup").

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 18, 20, 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinha in view of Drerup. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1-5, 7-8, 18, 20, 22-25

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinha in view of Drerup. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the combination of cited references because the combination does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claim 1. The Examiner indicated the limitation in former claim 5 was allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation. See page 4 of the office action mailed 1/4/2007.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:

identifying one or more initiating network resources that present a transaction on a first cycle;

filtering out presented transactions from the arbitration process destined to target network resources that are currently not available to service a transaction;

implementing an arbitration process among the remaining presented transactions to select a presented transaction from an initiating network resource to an available target network resource that wins the arbitration;

configuring segments of the pathways in an interconnect in the next cycle to establish a connection between the initiating network resource and the available target network resource that won the arbitration; and

configuring the segments of the pathways in the interconnect to pass a payload of information from the initiating network resource to the available target network resource while isolating other segments of the pathways in the interconnect not part of the payload of information transfer between the initiator network resource and the available target network resource.

(Emphasis added).

Sinha is directed to a method and system for allocating logical paths between a host and a controller in a virtual data storage system such that the loads on the logical paths from storage devices are distributed evenly across the logical paths. When a connection request for connecting a storage device to the host is received by the controller, the controller counts an amount of queued connection requests from the storage devices to the host on each logical path. A logical path for the new connection request is then selected as a function of the amount of queued connection requests on each logical path and the current input/output activity on each logical path. Sinha, Abstract.

The Office Action correctly recognizes that the prior art including Sinha does not teach the allowable limitation "configuring the segments of the pathways in the interconnect to pass a payload of information from the initiating network resource to the available target network resource while isolating other segments of the pathways in the interconnect not part of the payload of information transfer between the initiator network resource and the available target network resource" of previous claim 5 that has been added to amended claim 1. Office Action, 06/16/06, page 5.

Therefore, Sinha does not disclose or suggest the limitations stated in claim 1.

Drerup is directed to an electronic system with multiple initiators and one or more targets coupled to a bus, and a request mask control unit (RMCU). The initiators are configured to initiate requests (e.g., read requests and write requests) via the bus, and the targets are configured to receive requests from the initiators via the bus. The targets are also configured to produce multiple MaskEnable signals, wherein each of the MaskEnable signals is generated following an initial request received via the bus, and dependent on a corresponding "masking situation" within the target. The RMCU receives the MaskEnable signals and produces multiple RequestMask signals dependent upon the MaskEnable signals. One or more of the initiators are permitted to repeat requests via the bus dependent upon one or more of the RequestMask signals. This mechanism provides additional bus bandwidth for carrying out successful data transfers. Drerup, Abstract. Thus, Drerup discloses enabling one or more initiators to repeat requests via the bus.

As previously discussed, the Office Action correctly recognizes that the prior art including Drerup does not teach the allowable limitation "configuring the segments of the pathways in the interconnect to pass a payload of information from the initiating network resource to the available target network resource while isolating other segments of the pathways in the interconnect not part of the payload of information transfer between the initiator network resource and the available target network resource" of previous claim 5 that has been added to amended claim 1. Office Action, 06/16/06, page 5.

Therefore, Drerup does not disclose or suggest the limitations stated in claim 1, as amended.

In contrast to the cited references, amended claim 1 recites "configuring the segments of the pathways in the interconnect to pass a payload of information from the initiating network resource to the available target network resource while isolating other segments of the pathways in the interconnect not part of the payload of information transfer between the initiator network resource and the available target network resource." For the reasons stated above, Sinha and Drerup, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 1. In particular, the cited references do not teach or suggest "configuring the segments of the pathways in the interconnect to pass a payload of information from the initiating network resource to the available target network resource while isolating other segments of the pathways in the interconnect not part of the payload of information transfer between the initiator network resource and the available target network resource."

Even if arguing the combination of cited references were to disclose all of the limitations of claim 1, the Office Action does not provide a proper motivation to combine the references because Sinha teaches away from such a combination. Sinha discloses a controller that selects a logical path for a connection request between a host and one or more storage devices. Drerup discloses a method for providing improved bus utilization via target directed completion for a connection between an initiator and a target. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Sinha with Drerup based on applicant's own disclosure.

Given that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Independent claim 7, as amended, and independent claim 18 contain similar limitations but not identical compared to the limitations of amended claim 1. For similar reasons, independent claims 7 and 18 are not rendered obvious by Sinha in view of Drerup under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is submitted that claims 2-4, 10 and 19-25 are not rendered obvious by Sinha in view of Drerup under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) given that claims 2-4, 10 and 19-25 depend from and include the limitations of one of the corresponding independent claims 1, 7 and 18.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claim 11-17 over the prior art of record. Office Action, 01/04/07, page 4.

The Office Action states that claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 19, and 21 have been objected to because these claims are dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of previous base claim 1.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 9 and intervening claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 6 and 7 and associated dependent claim 10 are allowable.

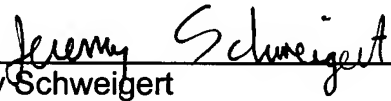
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeremy Schweigert at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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